

**RULES OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649127726

Rules of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by Christian Brothers

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

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RULES

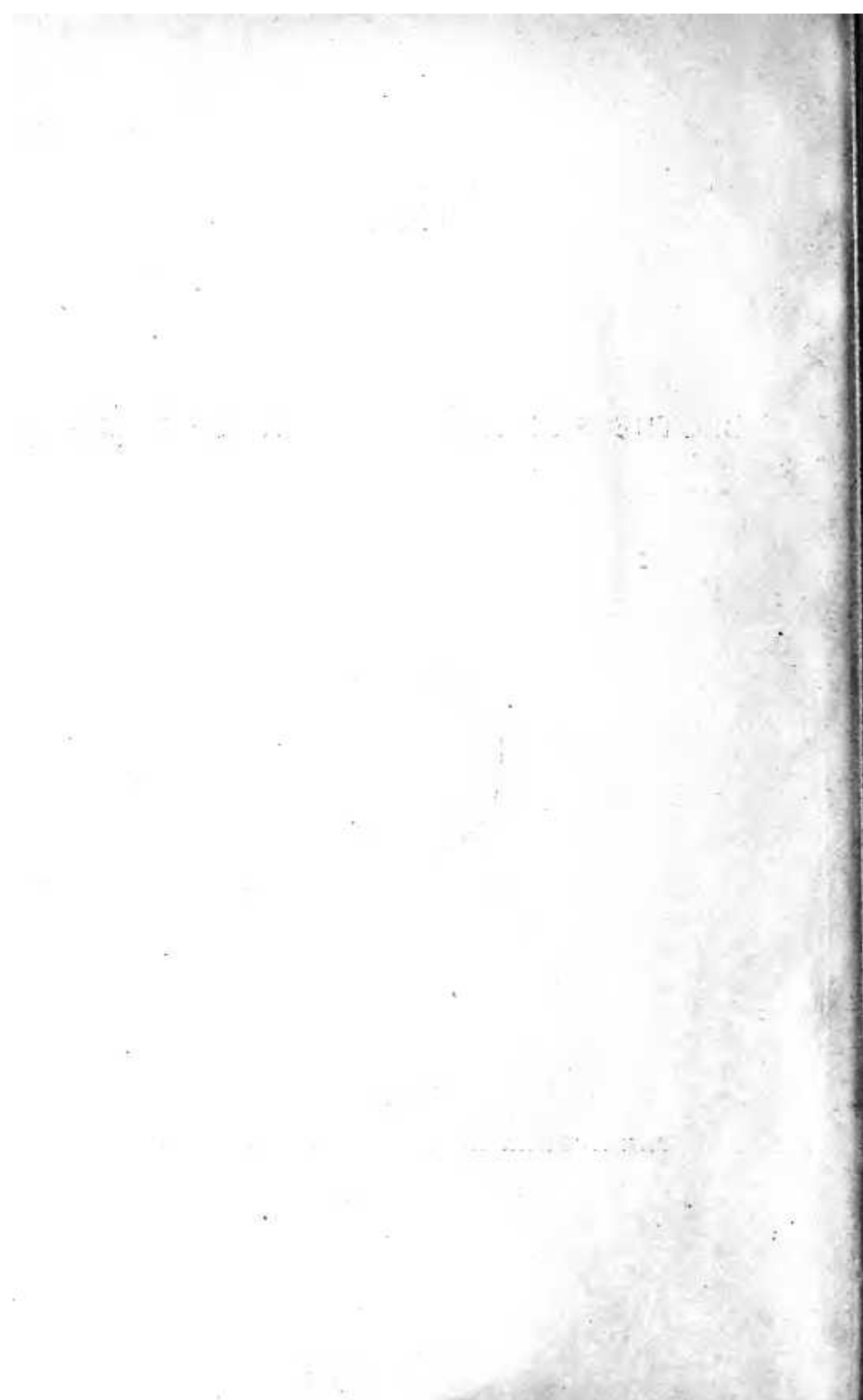
OF THE

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

RULES
OF THE
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PARIS
THE MOTHER HOUSE, RUE OUDINOT, 27
—
1905



BULL
OF
OUR HOLY FATHER POPE BENEDICT XIII
APPROVING
THE RULES AND THE INSTITUTE
OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

BENEDICTUS, EPISCOPUS
SERVUS SERVORUM DEI.

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam.

IN APOSTOLICÆ DIGNITATIS SO-
LIO, divina disponente clemen-
tia, nullis Nostris licet suffra-
gantibus meritis, sed solum per
ineffabilem divinæ bonitatis gra-
tiam constituti, illiusque vices
gerentes in terris qui gloriosus
regnat in cœlis, ex incumbenti
Nobis pastoralis officii debito,
ad ea libenter intendimus per
quæ piæ Christifidelium volun-
tates, præsertim in Institutorum
foundationibus ex quibus litte-

BENEDICT, BISHOP, SERVANT OF
THE SERVANTS OF GOD.

*For a perpetual memorial of the
matter.*

HAVING BEEN RAISED TO THE
DIGNITY OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE
by a disposition of the divine
clemency, though without any
merits of Our own, but solely
by an unspeakable favour of di-
vine goodness, and holding on
earth the place of Him who
gloriously reigneth in heaven,
in compliance with the duty in-
cumbent on Us from Our pas-
toral charge, We willingly di-
rect Our attention to those

things which may bring about the due fulfilment of the pious intentions of the faithful, more especially in what regards the foundation of Institutes which promote literary culture, favour the progress of the children of the poor who are desirous of studying in order to cultivate with fruit the Lord's vineyard, and increase learning and wisdom. Wherefore, to the salutary Ordinances and Statutes of such Institutes, to the end that they may rest on a more solid basis and be observed through all future time, We gladly add, especially when We are requested to do so, the strong support of Our Apostolic confirmation, and bestow Our efficacious aid and co-operation according as We deem it useful in the Lord, after having weighed, with mature and diligent consideration, the conditions and circumstances of persons, places and times.

Now, there has recently been presented to Us on the part of Our well-beloved sons, the Superior General and the Brothers of the Christian Schools, (as they are called), of the city of Rheims, a petition which sets forth that, some time previously, namely, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty, the late devout servant of God, JOHN BAPTIST DE LA

rarum studia, et pauperum adolescentium illis vacare volentium profectus ad fructuosam agri Dominici culturam, ac doctrinæ et sapientiæ incrementa propagantur, suum debitum consequi valeant adimplementum; et propterea eorundem Institutorum salubribus Ordinationibus et Statutis, ut firmiora subsistant et perpetuo futuris temporibus observentur, potissimum cum a Nobis petitur, Apostolicæ confirmationis robur libenter adjicimus, opemque et operas Nostras impendimus efficaces, prout personarum, locorum et temporum qualitatibus et circumstantiis, matura et diligenti consideratione pensatis, in Domino conspicimus salubriter expedire.

SANE pro parte dilectorum filiorum modernorum, Superioris Generalis et Fratrum Scholarum Christianarum nuncupatorum civitatis Remensis, Nobis nuper exhibita petitio continebat, quod alias, videlicet de anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo octogesimo, quondam tunc in humanis agens pius Dei famulus JOANNES BAPTISTA DE LA SALLE, dum viveret Canonicus

Ecclesiæ Metropolitanæ Remensis, pie considerans innumera quæ ex ignorantia, omnium origine malorum, proveniunt scandala, præsertim in illis qui vel egestate oppressi, vel fabrili operi unde vitam eliciunt operam dantes, quarumvis scientiarum humanarum, ex defectu æris impendendi, non solum penitus rudes, sed quod magis dolendum est elementa religionis christianæ persæpe ignorant, quoddam Institutum sub titulo FRATRUM SCHOLARUM CHRISTIANARUM nuncupatorum, et sub infrascriptis Regulis per Sedem Apostolicam approbandis et confirmandis, ad Dei laudem et pauperum levamen, sub [auctoritate] Sedis Apostolicæ præfatæ, ac patrocínio sanctissimi Infantis JESU et sancti Joseph, fundavit in civitate Remensi; quodque Institutum hujusmodi, benedicente Domino fructus suos, in variis regni Galliarum, et præsertim in Rothomagensi, et Parisiensi, ac Avenionensi, et Carnutensi, ac Laudunensi, et Trecensi, ac Audomarensi, et Boloniensi, ac Alesiensi, et Gratianopolitani, ac Mimatensi, et Massiliensi, ac Lingonensi, et Uticensi, ac Eduensi, respective diœcesibus propagatum fuit, in quibus dicti Fratres sub tenore infrascriptarum Regularum :

SALLE, while Canon of the Metropolitan Church of Rheims, being moved with pity at the sight of the innumerable scandals that spring from ignorance, the source of all evils, more particularly among those who, whether crushed down by want, or busy with manual labour in order to gain a livelihood, are not only extremely ignorant of all human sciences for want of the necessary pecuniary means, but, what is more lamentable, are often without the knowledge of the elements of the Christian religion, founded in the city of Rheims, under the authority of the aforesaid Apostolic See, and under the patronage of the Most Holy Infant Jesus and of St. Joseph, an Institute known by the title of the BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (as they are called), for the glory of God and the relief of the poor, and under Rules hereinafter set forth for the approbation and confirmation of the Apostolic See; and that this Institute, by the blessing of God on its fruits, has spread in various dioceses of the kingdom of France, and more particularly in those of Rouen, Paris, Avignon, Chartres, Laon, Troyes, Saint-Omer, Boulogne, Alais, Grenoble, Mende, Marseilles, Langres, Uzès and Autun res-

pectively, in which places the said Brothers have hitherto lived and now live under the tenor of the following Rules, namely:

First. That, being instituted under the protection of the Most Holy Infant Jesus and the patronage of St. Joseph, they should make it their chief care to teach children, especially poor children, those things which pertain to a good and Christian life; that zeal for the education of youth in accordance with the standard of Christian law should be the special characteristic, and, so to speak, the spirit of their Institute.

Second. That they obey the Superior General for the time being, elected by themselves, and live in those dioceses into which they have been admitted by the consent of the Bishops, and under their authority.

Third. That their Superior General be for life; that he be elected by ballot and by the secret votes of the assembled Directors of the principal houses; that also, by the same voters, in the same assembly and in the same way, two Assistants be elected, to form the Council of the Superior General for the time being, and to aid him in the proper administration of affairs.

Primo. Videlicet quod ipsi sub clientela sanctissimi Infantis Jesu, et patrocinio sancti Joseph instituti, hoc maxime cavere debeant ut pueros, præsertim pauperes, ad ea quæ ad bene christianæque vivendum pertinent, erudiant; Instituti illorum dos præcipua et quasi spiritus Instituti, puerilis institutionis ad christianæ legis normam, zelus esse debeat.

Secundo. Quod parent pro tempore existenti Superiori Generali ab ipsis electo, vivantque in illis diocesisibus in quibus admissi sunt de consensu Episcoporum, et sub eorumdem auctoritate.

Tertio. Quod eorum Superior Generalis sit perpetuus, ejusque electio fiat scrutinio ac secretis suffragiis per Directores præcipuarum domorum congregatos; itidemque eligantur ab eisdem, in eodem consessu et eodem modo, duo Assistentes qui pro tempore existenti Superiori Generali sint a Consiliis, eumque in recta administratione adjuvent.